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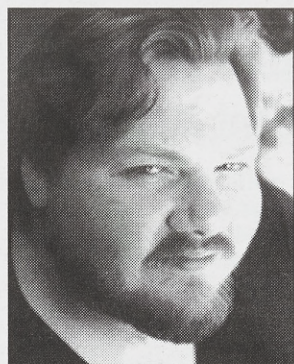
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Help Out; Don't Sign

By Matthew Burlingame

The recession is here, how do you like it? Ya know, the recession we said we were on the verge of for the past year or so? The one everyone ignored or didn't understand so they didn't pay attention when people were talking about it? The one that "snuck up" on us?

Gas is over \$4 a gallon—A GALLON! A loaf of quality bread is about \$4 and Oh my God! Regular sized candy bars are over \$1.00!

Now this isn't me writing a nostalgia column. "I remember when candy bars were just 25 cents". OK, I do remember that—shut up! But a year ago it was 85 cents. It has been for ...years!

Everything is almost unaffordable—vegetables, meat, dairy is ridiculous. So much for giving your kids a balanced meal.

Wait—hold everything—it's not the recession. It's the gas prices. That's right, that's what it's being blamed on. The prices of everything are up because the delivery companies have to pay more for the gas to get them there. So really all this must be blamed on the gas companies.

OK...maybe there is some truth in that. A grain or two. But higher gas prices doesn't a recession make. It needs a partner to help out. That partner is a lack of increase in the living wage.

Higher prices, no raises...so we find ourself cutting back on all the little extras that we've gotten

used to. The Netflix get cancelled, the online accounts get pulled, monthly subscriptions cancelled, the cable goes to basic—and all that is just step one.

The next step is changing light bulbs to lower wattages, turning off the computers at night, saving every spare watt until we are even unplugging appliances at night.

If you are lucky enough to have a job that allows telecommuting, you save every drop of gas. Recycle every bottle, use every coupon—all of this is stuff that...our grandparents used to do! That's right, out grandparents and great grandparents drove us mad lecturing us on how to do all this crap. Yet we thought they were just...backward.

We have to face the idea that maybe they weren't backward. Maybe they lived through this themselves. Maybe it was that "Great Depression" thingy? We thought they just didn't have Prozac back then...but it was much more serious than that.

So now here we are with a disappearing middle class, shopping more and more at the Dollar Tree Stores for basic necessities and hoping they don't become the Two Dollar Tree Stores.

So while we are learning to economize and save every cent and wake up each day seeing more people struggling just to meet the bottom line...what are we doing to try to fix it?

What? Fix it? We can't fix it! The government has to fix it. We don't have the power to fix a problem like this!

Yeah...that's the type of thinking that got us here in the first place.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Thank you for carrying "Libertarian Perspective". As a gay Libertarian, I find it a constant source of irritation that everyone assumes you have to be a registered Democrat in order to be gay. It is most definitely not the case! While some preach "diversity" and "inclusion", they are the first to exclude those who don't think as they do. Therefore, as a newcomer to Sacramento, it was a pleasure to find that MGW News (unlike other publications) provides real diversity of opinion in its pages.

Sincerely, Robert Hansen



OBITUARIES

Richard Anthony Dellapenna

Ended his journey on April 1, 2008, at the age of 47. Richard leaves behind his mother, brother, sister, five nephews, two nieces and numerous friends. He was widely known as one of downtown's favorite bartenders. A remembrance of his life was held at his home in West Sacramento.



Kathleen Marie (Kathy) Ruhl

and recording artist. She played many venues in the United States, including Las Vegas and Nashville, (Grand Ole Opry); she spent 2 years entertaining the troops in Viet Nam and while there, she was designated an Honorary Navy Lieutenant. She later was privileged to do a spot appearance on the TV show "China Beach" to speak about her experiences in Viet Nam and received a Pea Body Award for show "souvenirs." Kathy founded the New Hope Cancer Foundation and was co-founder of the Twin Spirits Veteran's Assoc. She was also a Liver Transplant survivor and medaled in the 1991 Transplant Olympics (golf). On April 15, Kathy made her way to be with our Lord. A special thanks to all who cared for Kathy; U.C. Davis Dr. Kay Nelsen, and the staff of the Methodist and Kaiser Hospitals. Friends and family are invited to attend a memorial service on Saturday,

Pioneer, Board member, delegate, publicist, activist, fundraiser. Born May 24, 1947 in Sacramento, passed away peacefully at her Sacramento home at the age of 60. Kathy is survived by her partner of 20 years, Sandy Hasty, sister Muriel Ruhl Denno (husband Lee), niece, Tori Ann Wills, and numerous other family and friends. Kathy is preceded in death by her loving parents, William C. Ruhl (WWII veteran), and her mother, Hollie M. Ruhl. Kathy was a 1965 graduate of Elk Grove High School and went on to be a professional musician

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quick and easy shake preparation method that is perfectly suited to take the place of breakfast or lunch. Includes a 32 oz. bottle of M2, the Mangosteen Shake, Cleanse, Burn & Balance™ and Calcium Chewables. ♦ Use in conjunction with a weight management program, healthy diet, nutrition and exercise. *These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

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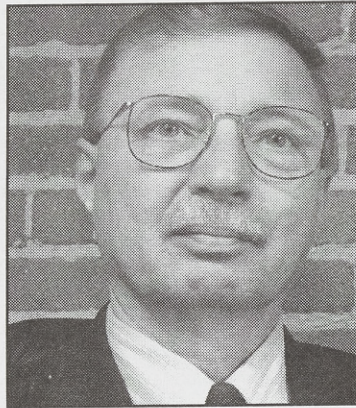
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POLITICS/OPINION

Libertarian Perspective: The 500-Pound Government Monkey



By Ron Getty

The "war on poverty," through its unintended consequences, is the enemy of the poor and, in fact, is a 500-pound government monkey sitting on the backs of the poor.

Fighting poverty is a multi-billion-dollar government boondoggle for bureaucrats using forced philanthropy from taxpayers. For example, a recent audit by the San Francisco budget analyst reported \$70 million of taxpayer funds spent by city departments to help 3,000 unemployed workers find low-wage employment. In the course of helping these unemployed folks find jobs, city employment bureaucrats earned average annual pay and benefits of \$85,000.

Poverty administrators suck in taxpayer dollars, and, unlike Oliver Twist, demand more; they do not ask for more and they never say please. The government minions' misguided attempt to stop poverty ignores the fact that progressive politicians' policies and regulations help create the poor and poverty.

The poor include blacks, Asians, Hispanics, white "trailer trash," immigrants (both legal and illegal), the disabled, drug addicts, the mentally unfit, the elderly, illiterates, and the unskilled. They live in areas of classic poverty: the slums, the "wrong side of the tracks," the projects, the ghetto, the 'hood, the red light district, etc.

The poor are ghettoized by government policies from land-use, zoning, and building codes that restrict low-cost housing to poverty "reservations." The

poor could take over abandoned buildings through squatters' rights and make them habitable. Instead, progressive politicians using eminent domain seize abandoned properties and hold them for connected developers to build premium-priced housing with some throw-a-bone-to-the-dog affordable units.

Politically induced regulations for licenses, permits, and labor codes anti-competitively hamper opening a business or getting employed. Government laws further criminalize the entrepreneurial poor by declaring street corner pharmacists, penny ante gamblers, and adult consensual sex workers as criminals.

Government treats small businesses that mainly hire low-wage workers as if they were ATMs. Because of legislated employer taxes and employee wage and benefit mandates, the amount of capital available to hire low-wage or unskilled workers is severely constricted. San Francisco small businesses pay \$120 million in payroll taxes to the city coffers, which mean 6,000 minimum-wage workers aren't hired.

Income and sales taxes penalize low-wage workers, taking a higher net percentage of their income than better-paid workers. Little is left over for the basic necessities of food, shelter, and clothing.

Wal-Mart and similar stores offer low-priced goods that allow the poor to stretch those dollars and provide hundreds of minimum-wage jobs at each store. Progressive politicians fight retailers like Wal-Mart and characterize them as the devil incarnate. Yet these same progressive politicians offer no other low-cost shopping or job opportunity alternatives for low-wage workers.

We need to deregulate restrictive administrative and regulatory codes enacted by progressive politicians. These codes weren't designed to help the poor but rather to control the poor, ensnaring them in de facto poverty reservations.

Let's look at some things that could be done to free the poor from poverty by getting jobs for them and letting them keep what they earn:

Repeal income and payroll taxes for workers earning below the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. To increase hiring of the poor, repeal employer payroll taxes for hiring anyone earning below the guidelines.

Repeal minimum-wage laws to remove wage floors that block the unskilled from employment.

Put a minimum \$100 floor on regressive sales taxes that burden low-wage workers. Repeal laws on drug sales and consensual adult sex workers so those entrepreneurs won't be criminalized and imprisoned at the taxpayers' expense.

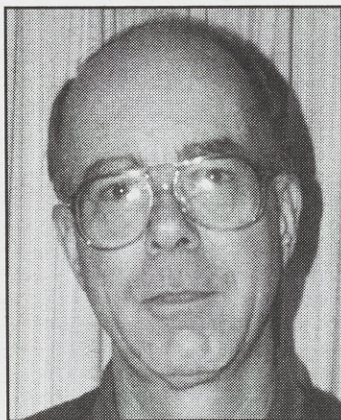
Allow unrelated families to join together to rent apartments or homes so the impact of high rents can be spread out.

Permit the poor with cars to offer neighborhood cab services without mandated taxi medallions. Let skilled women do hairdressing in their homes without the costly cosmetologist's license and training. Allow people to make sandwiches, salads, and stews in their home and sell the food from sidewalk tables or at work sites without having a licensed kitchen. Government regulation dictates that these gypsy cab drivers, unlicensed hairdressers, and cooks are criminals if they don't have the necessary mandated government permits. The government then makes the price of the permits and licenses unaffordable for someone living in poverty.

In short, we need to stop the "war on poverty" and free the poor from the shackles of government-created poverty. Hard work doesn't get you ahead when you're saddled with a 500-pound government monkey on your back. Get the 500-pound government monkey off the backs of the poor.

Ron Getty is the senior staff member of a tax attorney with his practice located in San Francisco. His background includes an electrical engineering degree and 30 years of sales, marketing and advertising with small to large corporations. A Vietnam Veteran of Chu Lai - I-Corps, he brings personal perspectives on veterans and their treatment by the government.

outsacramento.com



Financial Planning

By Boyce Hinman
The Lambda Letters Project, LambdaLP@aol.com

to domestic partners. They would no longer be required to do so if the domestic partner laws were overturned. Many would probably stop offering the discount to same sex couples.

Currently when registered domestic partners jointly own their home, and one of them dies, the county cannot reassess the home and raise the property taxes on it. If the domestic partner laws are overturned they could reassess the property and raise the taxes on half of its value.

Under current law, if a domestic partner dies without having written a will, then the surviving domestic partner automatically inherits the deceased partner's share of their jointly owned property. The survivor also automatically inherits all or a part of the deceased partner's separately owned property depending on whether or not the parents or any siblings of the deceased partner survived the deceased partner. If the domestic partner laws were overturned, and in the absence of a will completed

by the deceased, the survivor might lose these inheritance rights.

The tax laws might actually be better for domestic partners if the domestic partner laws were overturned. Under current law registered domestic partners must file their state income tax returns as joint returns, or as married filing separately. If the domestic partner laws are overturned, they could only file totally separate state income tax returns. Sometimes the taxes are higher when filing jointly or as married filing separately rather than individually.

At any rate, it might be prudent to think about these questions and to discuss them with a financial planner just in case the domestic partner laws are overturned. We should hope they will not be overturned, and work hard to prevent that from happening. However it might also be best to prepare for the possibility that they will be overturned. A good financial planner might help you do that.

I am not a financial planner, so I cannot give you financial advice. However, the unsettled political climate surrounding marriage equality and domestic partnership suggests that you should at least be thinking about some questions and perhaps discussing those questions with a financial planner.

The California Supreme Court may soon announce whether or not it is constitutional for the state to deny same sex couples the right to marry. However, people are currently gathering signatures on an initiative to amend the California constitution to ban same sex marriage. The supporters of this initiative claim they now have enough signatures to qualify this constitutional amendment for the November 2008 ballot. If 50% plus one of the voters vote for this initiative, it would overturn any decision of the California Supreme Court favoring same sex marriage.

Conservatives are also gathering signatures on three other constitutional amendments. All of those initiatives would ban same sex marriage in California. But three of them would also overturn all of California's domestic partner laws. A Supreme Court decision in favor of same sex marriage might even motivate more conservatives to sign the petitions now being circulated and might bring more conservatives out to vote in November. If so the GLBT community might lose on marriage equality and also lose all the benefits gained from California's domestic partner laws.

And that could produce some financial hardships for same sex couples. Currently many employers cover the domestic partner of an employee under a health insurance plan that the employer provides. This lowers the insurance costs of many same sex couples. Employers would no longer be required to do this if domestic partner laws are overturned and many employers might stop providing coverage for their employees' partners.

Currently insurance companies, that offer family discounts on premiums when married couples both apply for insurance, must offer the same premium discounts

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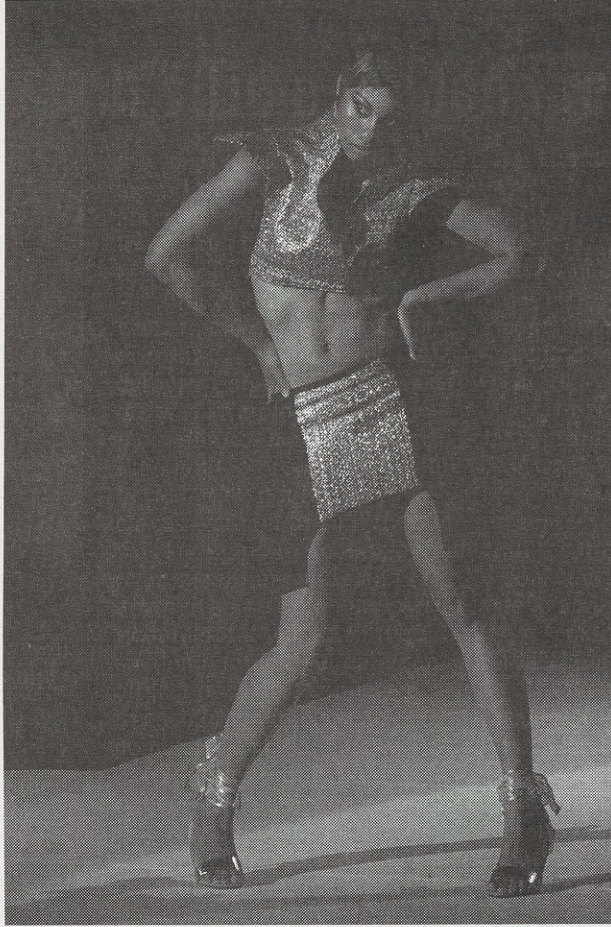
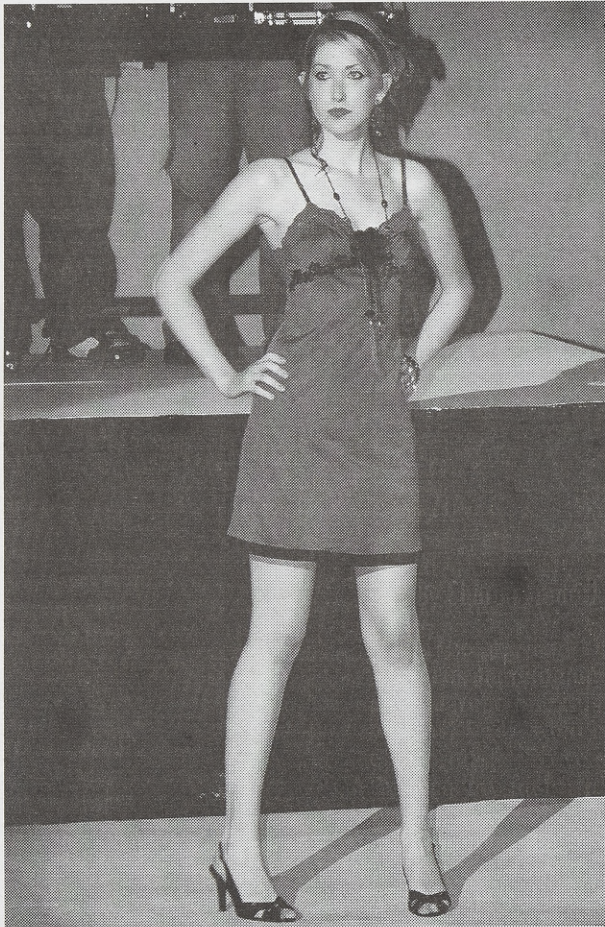
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COMMUNITY

IMAGINE Fashion Show Highlights Sacramento's Emerging Designers

Story By Tamara Little Photos By Rachel Valley/niftyimages.com



On Friday, March 28, the stage of the Crest Theatre was alight in many colors as models moved to lively music in daring, colorful outfits. The room was completely filled with captivated attendees. Everyone watched as the International Academy of Design and Technology presented its first fashion show.

The show, titled "IMAGINE—Where Fashion, Art and Music Unite", featured ten student designers showing nine collections, as well as several local designers. Featured designers were Tomiko Abella for Mikobella Designs, Melisa Celestial and Naomi Persinger, Victor Louis, Steven Willey, Brittany Anders, Jeremiah Hill, Liliya Nixon, Dee Aguilar, and Richard Hallmarq, who was a main organizer of the show.

The IADT was founded in the 1970s and has several locations. It opened its Sacramento campus in May 2007. The fashion show will hopefully become an annual event.

The show was a mix of new and familiar faces. Naima Mora from "America's Next Top Model" was the lively host. Announcers Nyabel Lual from "The Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency" and Hector Xtravaganza from the film *Paris is Burning* kept the momentum going throughout the evening. Special guests Jack Mackenroth of "Project Runway" and Maneca Lightner, cover model for "Madhouse" kept up the intensity.

In addition, there was plenty of musical entertainment provided by D.J. Billy Steele, Spekr Freks, Armstrong JR, and Carmen Xtravaganza. The

event benefitted Sacramento-based nonprofit The Center for AIDS Research, Education, and Services (CARES). It can clearly be said that it was a tremendous success.

An abundance of talent was featured this night. For creative people and anyone with an interest in fashion it was truly an indulgence. It is clear that a lot of hard work went into making the show happen. Seeing the dedication and enthusiasm of these students was very inspiring. It is always wonderful to see people working to realize their dreams. That was what could be seen this evening.

Tomiko Abella's Mikobella Designs presented "Romantica." This collection featured outfits inspired by the costumes worn by Spanish flamenco dancers. The models danced around the stage, beautifully

showing off the ruffles, lace, and beaded details. The colors featured were bold, and predominantly red and black. Timeless, romantic, and classic are words that describe this collection well.

Melisa Celestial and Naomi Persinger's "Seaside Celebration" featured light summer colors evoking a warm, carefree day at the beach. Lightweight and comfortable fabrics fit loosely and gently flowed with the movement of the models. Looking at this collection made me feel as though it were summer for a little while.

Victor Louis's collection, "Sugar and Spice," was inspired by the eighties and featured bright colors, polka dots, and sleek metallic and satiny fabrics. I loved the boldness of the colors. The designs were happy and fun. Simply looking at them could be enough to put anyone in a

good mood.

Steven Willey presented "The Nastromo," his science-fiction inspired collection. Earth colors in browns and greens were the shades most predominantly featured. The pieces were crafted from unique fabrics not commonly seen.

Brittany Anders presented "Discotek." Inspired by the nightlife of Studio 54 as well as the modern club scene, this collection featured metallic fabrics and bright colors that created a dramatic statement.

Jeremiah Hill has been designing for less than a year but already has quite an impressive collection. "Asian Knight" is the latest from his label "Agape." A dress with kimono-inspired sleeves was one of the highlights. Both fitted and flowing, and made with satiny fabrics and bright trim, it was simply stunning.

Liliya Nixon's collection

featured lots of sexy evening wear. Plenty of black, skintight fabrics, and short hemlines made this a very sexy collection. These young and hip outfits would be perfect for a night at the clubs.

Dee Aguilar's collection, "Antique Goddess" featured glamorous outfits inspired by those worn in classic films. Satin fabrics with metallic gold and silver trim highlighted the silhouettes of the models. These outfits are both traditional and modern in their elegance.

Richard Hallmarq's collection, "X" featured

dramatic floor-length dresses, eye-catching patterns, and plenty of black to live up to the title. Both men and women modeled the clothes. Their hairstyles were equally dramatic, with the women sporting unique ponytails that nearly reached the floor. Carmen Xtravaganza accompanied the models and captivated the crowd in a colorful Sixties-inspired dress that matched her bold personality.

After the show, I had the privilege of interviewing Dee Aguilar. Her collection literally sparkled, and I

loved her luxurious outfits. She shared some of her inspirations with me and gave a brief background of herself. She has been designing for three years. She's inspired by old movies, the Internet, and European fashion magazines. She loves to look at the great photos in them.

Dee has been in approximately twenty shows. Her next will be Sacramento Fashion Week later this month.

I also spoke with Kenyon Page, who modeled for Dee Aguilar and Liliya Nixon.

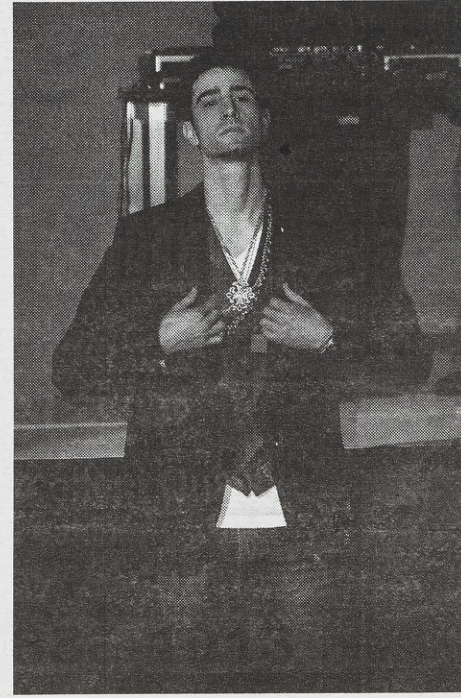
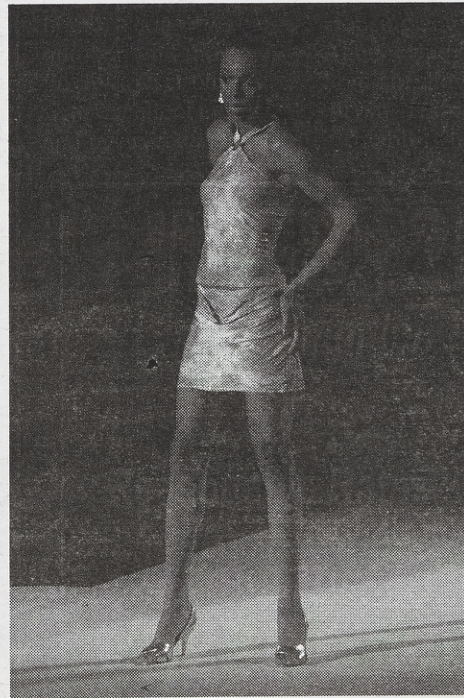
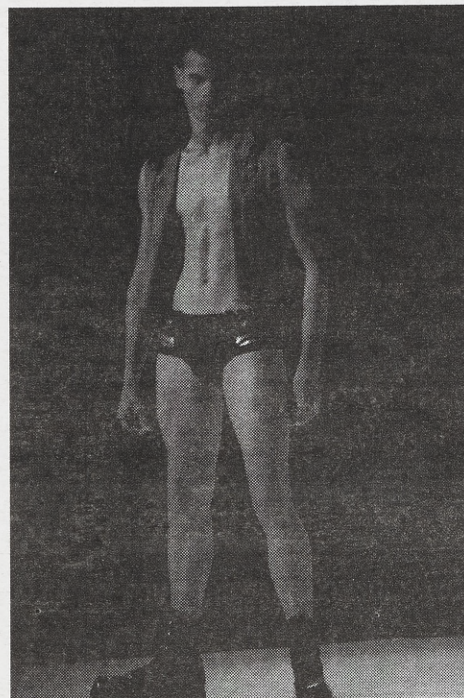
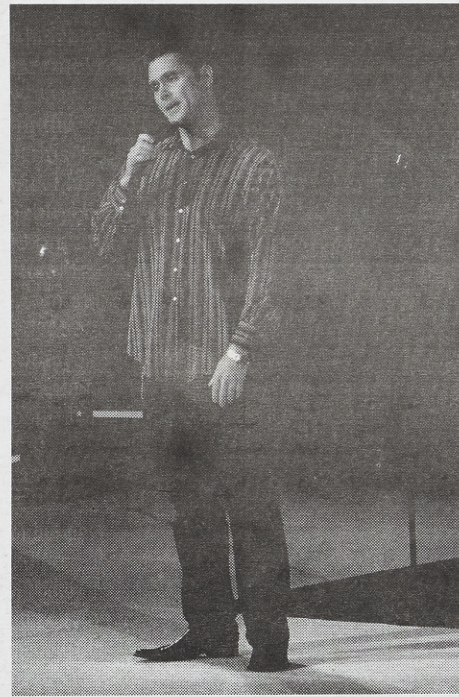
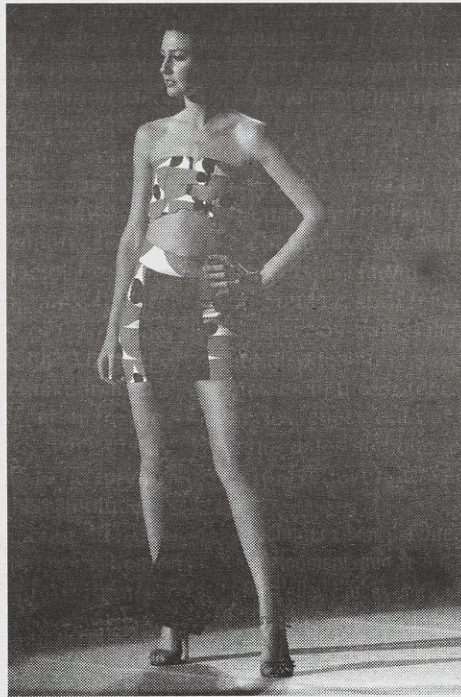
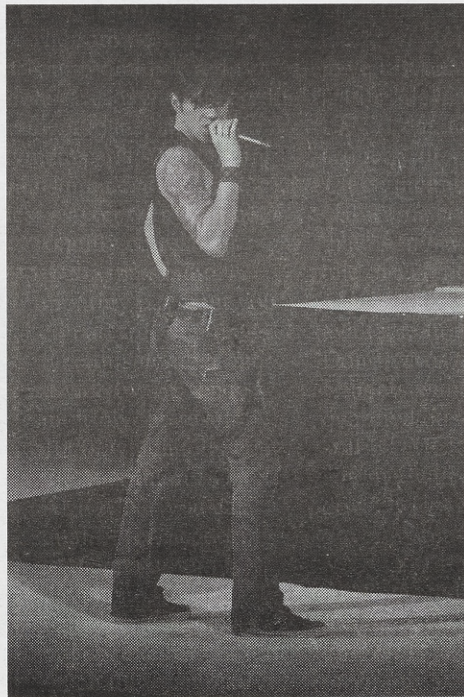
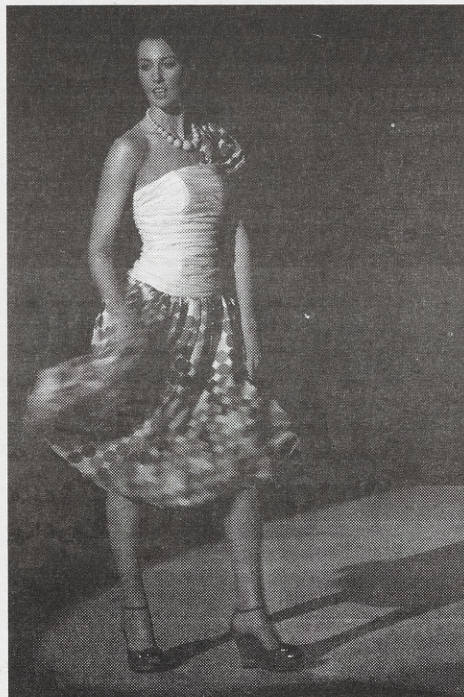
She shared some insights on her work. She has been modeling for three years. The work is always different and challenging. It is not as easy as it appears, although it is a lot of fun. Her favorite part is getting to meet a lot of interesting people.

There are also many travel opportunities. She hopes to model for a long time. It is rewarding work that adds diversity to life and brings plenty of opportunities.

This was a terrific show. Sacramento is becoming quite a fashionable city, and events such as this are proof.

There are so many talented designers who make this city their home. This show is only the beginning of many to come.

For more information on the International Academy of Design and Technology, visit: www.iadtsacramento.com or call (916) 285-9468. For more information on Sacramento Fashion Week, visit: www.sacramentofashionweek.com



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Equality for All Campaign Responds to Possibility of Constitutional Amendment Banning Marriage for Gay and Lesbian Couples

Sacramento—Proponents of an initiative that would use the California constitution to unfairly prohibit gay and lesbian couples from marrying claim to have turned in enough signatures to qualify the initiative for the California ballot in November.

"While we don't know the actual number of signatures they will turn in, we do know that they had a very hard time collecting signatures," said Geoff Kors, Executive Director of Equality California and member of the Equality For All Executive Committee. "We won't know for several weeks if the proponents have actually submitted the signatures they claim or if they have turned in enough to qualify their proposal for the ballot."

What is clear is that the people of California did not rush to put this measure on the ballot."

The initiative requires 694,000 valid signatures to qualify for the ballot. If passed, the amendment would amend the state constitution to "provide that only marriage between one man and one woman (be) valid or recognized in California."

"After failing in 2004 and 2006 to qualify similar amendments for the ballot, out-of-state extremist organizations had to spend close to 2 million to collect the signatures they claim to be turning in," said Lorri L. Jean, CEO of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and President of the Equality For All Campaign. "Proponents of this amendment resorted to paying people imported from across the country to gather signatures. The Equality for All campaign has recruited thousands of California volunteers from all across the state to tell voters the truth about this initiative and the harm it could cause for millions of California families."

On April 10, Governor Schwarzenegger added his voice

of opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment, saying, "Well, first of all, I think it would never happen in California because I think that California people are much further along on that issue, and number two, I will always be there to fight against that."

"Californians believe people should not be treated unfairly under the laws of our state," said Jean. "The freedom to marry is a fundamental right like other basic human rights, such as free speech, the right to vote and the pursuit of happiness. The government has no business determining who can or cannot get married."

"Whatever the true number turns out to be, the Governor is right that the people of California have come a long way on this issue," said Kors. "Whether this amendment qualifies this year or appears on a future ballot we are prepared to mount a vigorous statewide campaign and we are optimistic that California voters will reject this attempt to deny gay and lesbian couples the right to marry."



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Bill Creating Harvey Milk Day Passes First Assembly Committee

California could become the first state in the nation to designate a day specifically commemorating a leader of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. The Assembly Education Committee today approved legislation that would establish May 22 as Harvey Milk Day in California.

Assembly Bill 2567 would formally recognize the social contributions of the GLBT civil rights pioneer. Milk, a former San Francisco supervisor, was one of the nation's first openly gay elected officials. He was assassinated, along with San Francisco Mayor George

Moscone, in 1978. AB 2567, authored by Assemblymember Mark Leno and sponsored by Equality California, passed the Education Committee with a 7-3 vote.

"Harvey Milk knowingly risked his life because he believed that by living as an openly gay man he would help achieve full equality for all people," said EQCA Executive Director Geoff Kors. "His courageous leadership and vision has inspired three decades of progress in the fight to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people across the nation. A statewide day of recognition in his honor would remind us that we all have the power to create positive social change and that we all have the right to live openly and with dignity and respect."

AB 2567 would proclaim May 22 as Harvey Milk Day, recognizing the anniversary of Milk's birth. The measure also encourages public schools

and educational institutions to conduct activities teaching students about Milk, an important figure who is often left out of history lessons. It would not impact the state budget because it does not increase the number of paid holidays for state employees or suspend public functions.

"Given the alarming rates of suicide, depression, substance abuse, bullying and violence against GLBT youth in our schools, the bill aims to give GLBT and straight students alike a positive representative of who GLBT people are that inspires pride and self esteem rather than fear and shame," said Assemblymember Leno. "That is what Harvey was all

about. He was a true American hero who gave hope to a generation of gay and lesbian individuals, and this bill will help honor and preserve his legacy for years to come."

During the 1970s, Milk worked to pass an GLBT civil rights ordinance in San Francisco and helped defeat an initiative that would have banned gays and lesbians from teaching in public schools. Milk was tragically assassinated in 1978 by Dan White, a former Board of Supervisors colleague whose beliefs often clashed with his.

"Harvey challenged gay people to come out of the closets and into the streets to demand full and equal

participation in all aspects of civic life, even at great personal risk to themselves," said San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano, a former teacher and friend of Milk's. "Establishing a day of commemoration in our schools so that students can learn about and be proud of his accomplishments and leadership on behalf of all people's civil rights is a fitting and important way to honor his legacy."

California law commemorates the contributions of important historical figures and groups including Martin Luther King, Jr., Cesar Chavez, American Indians and Japanese Americans.

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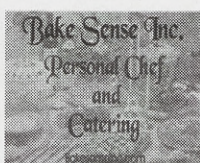
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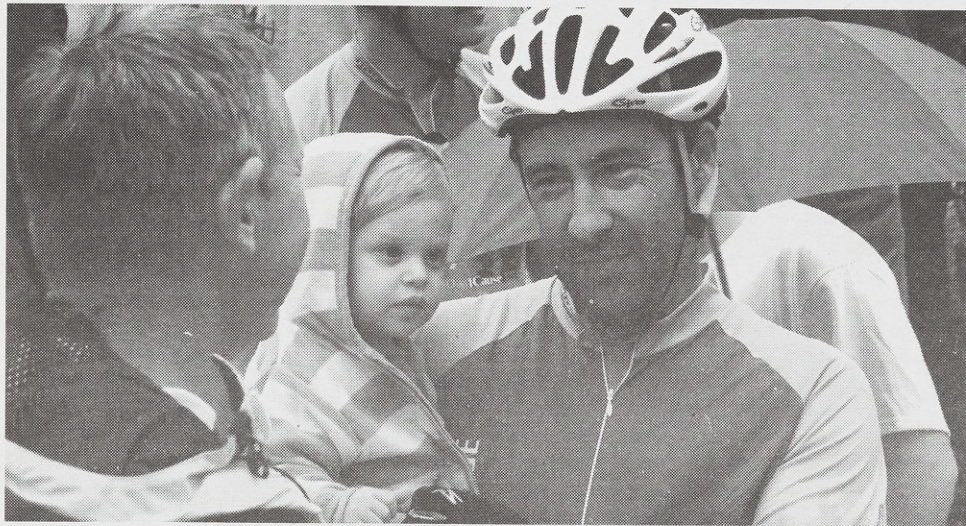


Photo From The Finish line of The 2006 NorCal AIDS Challenge Photo By Rich Jones

The NorCal AIDS Challenge is expected to raise over \$250,000 for HIV/AIDS agencies in Northern California. This is the 4th year for this Sacramento based AIDS cycling event and will take place from May 15-18. Early (6:00 a.m.) on May 15, 2008 some 60 cyclists and 30 crew will leave Sacramento on their 330 mile journey.

Many of the cyclists are first time riders. There is Jana, a single mom who just moved here last year from Alaska. She started riding in November cycling 25 miles in about 3 hours. Last weekend she completed her first century (100 miles) in 6 hours. Jana is looking forward to riding every mile of the NorCal AIDS Challenge (NCAC). There is Emily from Chico. Emily commutes to Sacramento twice a month to participate in the NCAC training rides. She too is a first time rider and completed her first century last weekend. She is anxious to complete her first NCAC. Rick lost his partner to AIDS last year and will be riding in his 3rd NCAC this year, more determined than ever. And there are the 57 other cyclists and 30 crew who all have taken the challenge to raise funds that will go to HIV/AIDS service agencies in Sacramento and Northern California.

This year the beneficiaries are CARES, Breaking Barriers, and AIDS Housing Alliance. With Federal and State monies being cut, the funds received from the ride are more critical than ever. CARES provides state of the art, comprehensive healthcare and social services to people from all communities who are living with HIV/AIDS. Breaking Barriers provides volunteer support including in-home chore work,

transportation, and companionship to those living with HIV/AIDS. They also provide educational services for HIV prevention to high risk groups in Sacramento County. AIDS Housing Alliance provides housing and services to families and individuals affected by HIV/AIDS. There is a residential hospice, thirty permanent housing units, and numerous transitional housing units. In addition to the main beneficiaries, smaller HIV/AIDS service agencies such as the Shasta/Trinity/Tehama HIV Food Bank, Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation, and Harm Reduction Services will be receiving funds from the ride. It's all about giving back to our community.

The route will take cyclists and crew through some of the most scenic and breathtaking areas the Central Valley has to offer. They will ride through the historic foothill towns of Loomis and Lincoln then drop down into Yuba City and Marysville and spend the night in the quaint town of Gridley. Then it's on to Chico and riding along the Sacramento River to Colusa. Day three cyclists will ride along Cache Creek ending in Woodland. Then it's on to Winters, Davis, and ending on the West Steps of the Capitol on Sunday, May 18.

Wondering what you can do? Everyone is invited to WELCOME THEM HOME! An informational and health fair with music and great fun will start at 11:30 on the West Steps of the Capitol on Sunday, May 18. The riders arrive at noon. Please come and cheer on the riders and crew as they complete their 330 mile journey. It will make them feel good and make you feel good too. Show them you appreciate their commitment to giving back to our community.

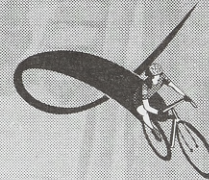
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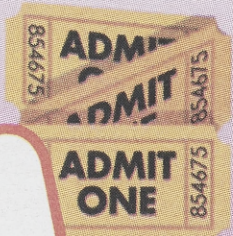


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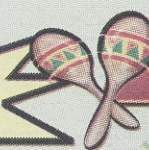
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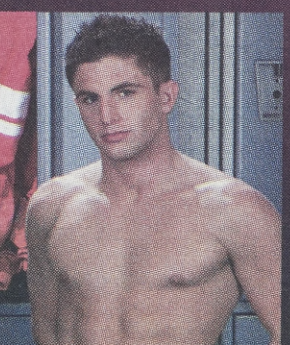
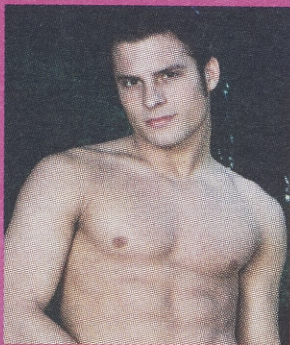
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Chroma Gallery's May Exhibit, "American River Legacy," Celebrates The Jewel Of Sacramento

Chroma Gallery's May exhibit, "American River Legacy," celebrates the jewel of Sacramento, the American River while benefitting the Save the American River Association. Visit the Gallery to see your favorite spots along the Parkway depicted in vibrant paintings and striking photographs by the artists of Chroma. In addition to being a great place to hike, bike and fish, it's also a favorite painting spot of Chroma's plein air painters in their quest to capture the radiant light and color of the Sacramento area. Save the American River Association members will join the artists at the Second Saturday reception, May 10th, 5 to 9 PM. They will be available to chat with visitors about the importance of preserving and protecting this scenic waterway. A portion of the proceeds from the gallery's sales during the

Second Saturday reception (as well as all sales during the month of May when buyers mention S.A.R.A.) will be donated to S.A.R.A. to aid their work preserving the American River.

Now in its tenth year, Chroma Gallery's May exhibit, "American River Legacy," celebrates the jewel of Sacramento, the American River while benefitting the Save the American River Association. Visit the Gallery to see your favorite spots along the Parkway depicted in vibrant paintings and striking photographs by the artists of Chroma. In addition to being a great place to hike, bike and fish, it's also a favorite painting spot of Chroma's plein air painters in their quest to capture the radiant light and color of the Sacramento area. Save the American River Association members will join the artists at the

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Now in its tenth year, Chroma Gallery - Northern California's premier plein-air gallery features the works of 19 local artists. Committed to capturing radiant light and color in their artistry, their emphasis is on the Northern California landscape. Besides landscape paintings, visitors will also find vibrant still life paintings, photography, collage and sometimes the avant-garde in the bold

display of color at Chroma. Chroma Gallery is located at 10030 Fair Oaks Blvd., just off Sunrise Blvd., in the Village of Fair Oaks. Open Thursday - Sunday from noon until 5PM, Second Saturday

until 9PM or by appointment. Phone (916) 966-6020 for more information visit the website at www.thechromagallery.com



American River Banks by Marilyn Rose

Northern California's premier plein-air gallery features the works of 19 local artists. Committed to capturing radiant light and color in their artistry, their emphasis is on the Northern California landscape. Besides landscape paintings, visitors will also find vibrant still life paintings, photography, collage and sometimes the avant-garde in the bold display of color at Chroma.

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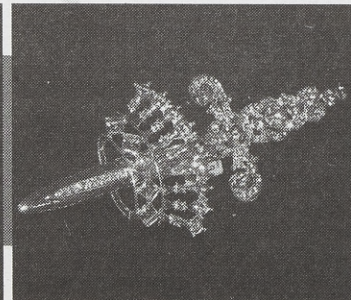
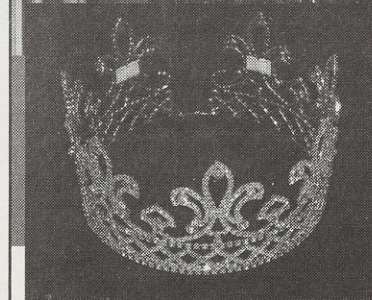
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(back row) LeRoy Fergeson, Richard Spierto, Carly Sisto, Steve Gold, Jenna Cook, Michael Wootton. (front row) Chris Cay Stewart, DeeDee Healy and Teresa Ahnin are the married couples in the life of bachelor Robert (Dan Masden seated center) in the musical comedy Company. Photo by Kris Hunt. Magic Circle Theatre presents the charming musical comedy Company playing Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., Sundays at 2:00 p.m. May 9 - June 14, 2008 in the Tower Theatre, 421 Vernon St., Roseville, CA 95678. Tickets are \$22 general admission, \$20 seniors and students, \$12 children 11 years old and under. Sponsored by Jensen Smith C.P.A.s. Call (916) 782-1777 for tickets.

Our Story Begins An Evening with Tobias Wolff Wolff in conversation with Pam Houston

California Lectures presents acclaimed author Tobias Wolff, May 8, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at the Crest Theatre in downtown Sacramento. In conversation with Pam Houston, Wolff will be discussing and reading from his newest collection, *Our Story Begins: New and Selected Stories*.

Wolff's fourth short-story collection features 21 riveting classics including "Next Door" and "Bullet in the Brain," as well as 10 new stories. His new works offer revelations — about biding one's time, experiencing first love, or burying one's mother — that come to a variety of characters facing everyday yet extraordinary circumstances. "Wolff conjures stories that etch your memory — which is to say, they become a part of you. This makes him, in my book, a very great writer indeed" (Marianne Wiggins, *LA Times*).

Wolff also wrote the memoirs *In Pharaoh's Army*, a chronicle of his tour of duty in Vietnam and the groundbreaking *This Boy's Life*, which later became a movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro. In 2003, he published the novel, *Old School*, a coming-of-age story set in an elite boys' boarding school. Wolff is the recipient of the PEN/Malamud Award, Rea Award, *LA Times* Book Prize, PEN/Faulkner Award and three O. Henry awards. Wolff was a member of the faculty of Syracuse University

for 17 years before accepting a position at Stanford in 1997 as a professor of English literature and creative writing.

Joining Wolff on stage will be accomplished writer, Pam Houston, who is the author of *Cowboys Are My Weakness*, which won the 1993 Western States Book Award and *Waltzing the Cat*, which won the Willa Award for Contemporary Fiction. She is also a contributor to *O, the Oprah Magazine*, the *New York Times*, *Bark* and many periodicals, and her essays and stories have been widely anthologized. Houston is the director of creative writing at UC Davis.

Tickets are \$25 and available at Tickets.com or (800) 225-2277, or can be purchased in person at the Crest Theatre box office. For program information call (916) 737-1300 or visit www.californialectures.org.

Lecture Date | Time

May 8, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Lecture Preview at 6:30 p.m., a biographical discussion presented by CSUS Professor Peter Grandbois. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Books available for purchase and book signing after the event. For program information call (916) 737-1300., Lecture Location Crest Theatre, 1013 K Street, Sacramento, Tickets: \$25 Tickets.com or (800) 225-2277 Or at the Crest Theatre Box Office, 1013 K Street: Mon - Thurs, 4:30-8pm, Friday - Sunday, 12:30-8:00pm.

Coldwell Banker's 11th Annual Art Exhibition and Sale

Some of Sacramento's most talented and well recognized artists came out for Coldwell Banker's 11th Annual Art Exhibition and Sale, held at The Clunie Community Center.

Photo By Rich Jones



The Stanislaus PRIDE Center provides resources to strengthen and support GLBT persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties.

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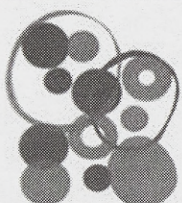


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THE HIGHER CALL

What's New in the GLBT Spiritual Community?



By Rev. Charles Cooper

A Safe Place to Worship
I know what you're thinking "yea right, when pigs fly."

So many of us have been brutally abused and misused by the church?

So many of us have been spiritually raped and rejected by the traditional church community. And, after hearing many years of hate speech being preached

from the pulpit, many of us have vowed never to enter a church, mosque, or synagogue again; leaving our spiritual being starving to connect with our own understanding of a greater creator.

I want to tell you about an exciting new church called "A Church For All." (Yup, that is the actual name.) It is a church that is designed to meet the spiritual needs of our vast and diverse community. Because so many of us have been disenfranchised from the spiritual houses of our grandparents, parents, or siblings there was a definite need to create a safe place where we can worship as proud, out, GLBT folks.

A Church For All is radically inclusive, with powerful music and spoken word and is designed to uplift and inspire you to live more fully, by connecting with your spiritual self.

It is a place designed for families, singles and even youth to discover their full potential, by connecting with

every fiber of their being. And because you are you, and we are we, A Church For All hosts their services every Sunday in the early afternoon, to accommodate those who love to relax a little Sunday mornings, or visit our community's most prominent dance clubs the night before.

It is a place where wholeness and wellness are encouraged by teaching everyone how to deal with everyday issues from a spiritual perspective, and by people who have been there and done that. Oh yeah, another thing that I love about this church is that you can come in whatever attire that you want to.

You will meet people that come in full out drag, those who come in shorts, or even those who just can't shake the necessity of wearing a tie to church. A Church For All is there meet your needs, but only if you take advantage of it.

After all, A Church For All is not a place more then it is a

community comprised by all who take part. Please take a chance. Come and experience this new and different house of worship located at 721 North B St. Also you can contact us at 916-502-5603.

I promise, you will be truly grateful that you did.

Email your comments or questions to spirit@achurchforall.org or mail them to P.O. Box 162073 Sacramento CA 95816-2073. To learn more about A Church For All visit us at achurchforall.org.

Stonewall Alliance Center

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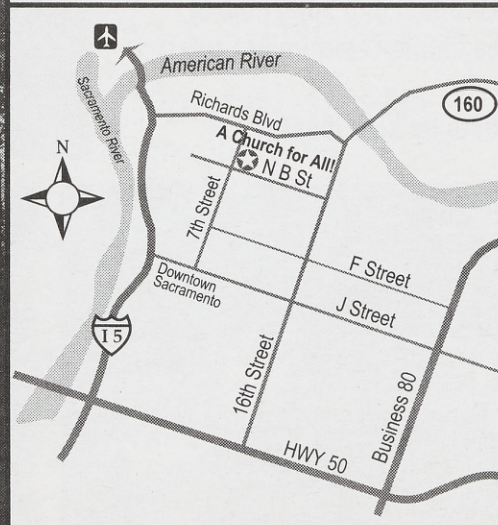
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Ban On Poz Travelers Reviewed...

The Senate is expected to reconsider a ban against HIV-positive foreign visitors and immigrants entering the country, a policy that has resulted in harsh international criticism for many years.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed an amendment last month to the \$50 billion AIDS funding bill that would move toward lifting the ban. Rep. Barbara Lee of California has sponsored a House version of the amendment.

In 1987, the federal health department added HIV/AIDS to the list of "communicable diseases of public health significance," resulting in the travel ban. Under the ban, foreigners with HIV are not permitted to immigrate or even visit temporarily unless they qualify for narrowly defined waivers. Then in 1993, Congress further supported the travel ban by making it law, passing specific legislation under the Immigration and Nationality Act. The United States is one of only 13 nations, such as Iraq, with such a law.

The ban has prompted a boycott of the United States by prominent AIDS advocacy and research groups, which have not held a major international conference here since the early 1990s.

"There is no scientific basis whatsoever for the travel ban, and there never has been," said the head of retro-virology at the Baylor College in Houston. In fact, he added, the ban may indirectly spread HIV by stigmatizing the disease and deterring people from seeking treatment.

In 2006, the international UNAIDS also stated there is "no public health rationale for restricting liberty of movement or choice of residence on the grounds of HIV status."

A Really Good Reason To Exercise...

A Harvard study has found that men who exercise three to five hours a week have a much lower risk – as much as 30 percent – of experiencing erectile dysfunction than men who do not exercise, according to a Bee report.

Hard exercise at the gym is not even required – walking just 30 minutes several days a week renders a positive effect. And the study showed that benefits can

be seen no matter what age you begin your regimen.

Increased stamina and muscle tone, more confidence in your body, reduction of stress or depression – and increased testosterone levels – go hand in hand with short, intense periods of exercise. Those choosing an exercise program other than walking need to learn how to properly warm up and stretch, making prep and cool-down an important part of your workout. Take a nice walk with your partner, and double the energy.

Study links two meds to increased heart attack risk...

A safety review of abacavir (Ziagen) and didanosine (Videx, DDI) is being conducted after a recent data-collection observational trial suggested an increased risk for myocardial infarction (MI), said the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently.

The trial, which followed 33,347 people in North America, Europe, and Australia, showed that use of abacavir and didanosine increased the risk for MI by as much as 90% and 49%, respectively, compared with other nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) such as zidovudine, stavudine, and lamivudine.

The excess risk for MI appeared to be greater in people with other risk factors for heart disease, but seemed to be reversible within 6 months of discontinuing treatment.

FDA will continue to evaluate the overall risks and benefits of abacavir and didanosine, and it may revise the labeling for these products in the future. In the interim, healthcare professionals are advised to discuss potential risks and benefits with those using these anti-retroviral therapy meds.

Adverse events associated with use of abacavir or didanosine should be reported to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Prezista Could Be Linked To Liver Damage...

FDA health officials have also warned doctors that protease inhibitor Prezista could be linked to liver illness, and even death. Upon the drug's 2006 approval, labeling noted that 0.5 percent of people taking Prezista developed drug-induced hepatitis, based on studies up to that time.

Since the drug's approval, however, FDA says it has received more reports of hepatitis, some fatal, mostly in

people with advanced HIV who took many medications.

Japanese Fertility Celebration...

More than 30,000 people attended the annual fertility festival in Kawasaki last month, where attendees asked for blessings and protection from STDs. The festival dates back over 300 years, when prostitutes sought protection from an epidemic of syphilis. Now, the festival is held to help raise STD awareness and support people living with HIV/AIDS.

Planned Parenthood's Web Site Creates A Stir...

For many years, the Planned Parenthood Federation's Teenwire.com web site has been providing teens with medically accurate information about sex and the changes that occur during adolescence. But a few members of Congress are suddenly voicing opposition to the site.

"It's borderline pornographic," said Rep. Steve King of Iowa, "and... it's funded by federal taxpayer dollars funneled through Planned Parenthood."

King, and two other Republican congressmen from Nebraska, say they believe it is too explicit, and they disagree with its messages on subjects such as abortion and premarital sex.

Among numerous other topics, the site also talks about why condoms and lubes are important, and explains that "Most people who are homophobic are worried about their own sexuality and project that fear on others."

Planned Parenthood says the teen site is not funded by tax dollars. The main organization receives about one-third of its budget from government grants and contracts, but Teenwire.com is funded by a private donation. They segregate private and public funds, just as they keep federal dollars separate from their abortion services.

The organization's Nebraska president says the need for the site is clear, since 750,000 teens will get pregnant this year, and 4 million will contract an STD. "It's more important than ever that teens have medically accurate, lifesaving health information, and politicians shouldn't try to deny it to them," she said.

Beware of AIDS Fraud...

Stay on the lookout for fraudulent and misleading claims about treatments, cures and prevention of HIV or AIDS. Do not waste your optimism or money on products claiming to boost your immune system, kill disease-causing parasites, or cure and treat HIV and TB. Do not waste your money on heal-your-life or get-well-again seminars. Do not buy products claiming you can get better if you try their new miraculous discovery.

If you want to test for HIV at home, know that there is still only one over-the-counter HIV test kit approved by the FDA, and that is the Home Access Express HIV-1 Test System. Other kits could be useless. Many clinics now use a 20-minute rapid test to get your results to you quickly, and immediately provide you with information on what to do next. In addition, clinics will ordinarily double-verify results that test positive, before that information is given to you, since some people can test as false-positive.

You can stay healthier by following a sensible lifestyle and coordinating your concerns with your physician. Keep a list of questions to take with you to each doctor visit. Check with your doctor before you purchase over-the-counter meds, including 'natural' whole-earth products – even something as simple as tylenol or cough syrup could interfere with your treatment regimen.

You can learn about ways to live with HIV through supportive friends dealing with HIV, and in meetings sponsored by knowledgeable organizations such as CARES, the Med Center, or state and county HIV departments. If you have questions about products or ads, ask your physician, or call the Health Fraud Task Force 1800-459-4503 www.aidsfraud.com, or Project Inform 1800-334-7422. Be aware. Live long and prosper.

Spring Plant Sales...

Bob Hamm's benefits plant sale schedule for the spring is as follows:

**May – Sat, Sun May 3,4; Sat, Sun May 17,18; **June – Sat, Sun June 7,8; Sat, Sun June 14,15.

Place: covered parking area behind Gifted Gardener, 18th and J Streets in midtown. See you there!

In Loving Memory... of friends lost in April

April 1986:
Scott Oatman
Randy Pike
Don Perez

April 1987:
Kevin Adams
Mel D. Foote
Mick Shaughnessy

April 1988:
Scott Jay Miller
David Tapia, Jr.

April 1989:
Jose (Joe) Herrera
C. K. McClatchy

April 1990:
Kenny Pendergast
Stanton Kotter
Walter Williams
Paul Martin
Dr. Lee Wreyford
Gary McDaniel
Ryan White

April 1991:
Dr. Laz Nemeth
Chad Andrew Henry
Manuel Silva

April 1992:
Chris Angeles
Louis Franklin
Lauren Searle
Michael Croker
Jeffrey Poile

April 1993:
Donald Thompson
Stephen Green
Ben Rudolph
Sal G.
Donald Pruitt
David Oliver

April 1994:
Jim DiStefano
Andrew Swanson
Steve Unruh
Philip Waggoner
Jack A.
Emilee P.
Rawlston Deen
Poole
Jay Johnson
Wally
Antosiewicz
Vance E. Neel

April 1995:
Wayde Winsley
Joseph Wm. Leis
Ronald Campbell-Gallaher
Daniel Miles
Cargile

Rodney F.
Wayne Fred Risley
Bob Chermack
Joseph Wm. Leis
Richard Lynn King
Billy Kimpton
Larry Bane

April 1996:
Jerry Castillo
Arnold Dr. William "Danny" Covey

Jon Allman
Al Hader
Gary L. George Ray Peterson
Linda H.
Eric Lee Cook
Steven L. Martin

April 1998:
Shannon Davis
Jon Anthony Bridgham
Steven Bruggeman

April 1999:
Mike Amoretti
Richard Monnier

April 2000:
Joe Garrett

April 2001:
Eric Hogan
Akili Jaye
Jimmy Mazza
Anthony "Garth" Harrison, Jr.

April 2004:
Phyllis Randall

April 2005:
Mark (DJ) MarkieMark Simpson
Matt Wakely

April 2006:
Richard Wyman
Marty Tenich
Monte Dean Olson

April 2008:
Richard Dellapenna

Year Unknown:
Eugene Harris
Terry Heiser
Don Hogue
Winston Ingham

If we are to wear this mourning cloak let it be made of the fabric of love woven by the fine thread of memory.

To add the names of loved ones to MGW's remembrance column, or clarify Year Unknown, call 737-0309.

Helping First Time Buyers

By Jennifer Cox



I am Director of Business Development and Senior Loan Officer with Old Valley Homes and Loans, a Midtown Real Estate and Mortgage company specializing in helping First-Time Homebuyers realize their dreams of homeownership. Old Valley Homes and Loans is family owned by my parents, Marcy Boyd and Jim Barnhart, and over the years has been

staffed with numerous friends, family members, and clients. I have been with Old Valley Homes and Loans since 1991, when my mom and I were working out of her home in Elk Grove. I got my license in 1994, and have worked in almost every nook and cranny of our business, including listing homes, representing homebuyers, and doing appraisals. I am a First-Time Homebuyer expert, and I have helped hundreds of my friends and their friends get a great home and finance it the way THEY wanted.

We have recently been given the amazing opportunity to share our wealth of knowledge with the community through the Borders Live Class series at Borders Books in Natomas and Fair Oaks Blvd. We have taught several different classes, including Reverse Mortgages,

Investing in Bank Owned Homes, Green Lending for the 21st Century, and The Prepared First-Time Homebuyer.

Our First-Time Homebuyer class is designed to teach first-time buyers the ins and outs of credit approval, income documentation, and the various types of down payment assistance, as well as a Magic Formula which will give most buyers an idea how much they can afford to spend on their new home before they ever see their mortgage consultant. This formula begins by taking your Gross Monthly Income (total before taxes) and multiplying by 40%. Then from this figure subtract your monthly Credit Obligations (car payments, credit cards, student loans, any other debt payments – NOT including utilities, insurance, daycare, etc), which leaves you with a number

roughly equivalent to the maximum monthly payment you can afford. You then take this number and divide by 7%, and multiply the result by 1000, which tells you the maximum LOAN AMOUNT you can qualify for, according to the maximum payment. This valuable tool allows buyers to consider how much they can really afford pay for their home, a conservative number with more flexibility for buyers with excellent credit and reserves (such as

Savings, Retirement accounts, IRAs, Stocks). It's still true that the better your credit and proven ability to save, the higher you can push your debt ratio. However, now more than ever you must prove your income, as Stated Income loans have become elusive, and expensive when available.

Recently 100% Financing has been eliminated from most lenders in California, as a result of our declining real estate market. Specifically what has happened is that Mortgage Insurance Companies, those big companies who have to pay the lenders a certain amount of their loss from a foreclosure, have lost too much money in California and now require a 5% LTV (Loan to Value) cut to ANY property in a declining market, which includes ALL but TWO California counties. This means that even if you qualify for one of Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac's 100% programs, it's not available in most of California. Don't worry though! Mortgage Lenders want to make loans to qualified buyers, and there are still NUMEROUS ways to buy a home with little to no money down. Most of them include government financing, FHA or VA, CalPERS, and combinations of Down-Payment Assistance programs like Access, gift programs like Nehemiah, and programs available from city agencies such as Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency and NeighborWorks. Some of these programs have income restrictions limiting availability to people who

make LESS than 100% of the area median income, which for Sacramento County is \$67,200. The Nehemiah Program, which many people thought was gone, is still going strong and allows a gift of up to 6% of the sales price with NO INCOME LIMITS.

Sacramento has literally HUNDREDS if not thousands of homes available for under \$150,000, which means that for the first time in at least 3 years, people who make a moderate income can afford to buy a home! And even though market changes have restricted some lending programs, new programs become available to allow qualified buyers to make their home buying dreams come true!

You can learn more by coming to our next class in the Borders Live Class Series this weekend. We'll be teaching The Prepared First Time Homebuyer on Saturday Apr. 5 at 5:00 pm at Borders in Natomas, and again on Sunday April 6 at 2:00 pm at Borders on Fair Oaks Blvd. We are also teaching several other classes in the Borders Live Class Series, check out our website for more dates and classes.

oldvalleymidtown.com

Jennifer Cox is the Director of Business Development, and Senior Loan Officer, at Old Valley Homes and Loans, a Midtown, family-owned and operated, full service Real Estate and Mortgage Company. Old Valley Homes and Loans is the area's first Green Lender. Jennifer has been with Old Valley for 16 years, and has been a DRE licensed salesperson since 1994. Jennifer is heading up Old Valley's Green Lending solution.

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Livin' Free™



By Sharon Fredrickson

I had the privilege of spending a week hanging and hiking around Yosemite this past week. I've lived in Northern California for 25 years and this was my first trip, and the first thing I realized when I got there was that I was so grateful that I made it there. My favorite hike was up to the top of the Vernal Falls. It was utterly amazing and full of adventure. Because we were there the first day of spring, snow was still around us on many of the trails and the hike up to Vernal Falls was no different.

In fact when I was within .3 miles of my destination there was a sign across the trail announcing that it was in fact closed. Now I am a total rule follower...ok I'm not at all, but when it comes to this type of stuff, I am a bit better about it. Well that is except for this day. I couldn't help it. I was only .3 miles from my destination and I wasn't going to let a little "WARNING trail closed due to avalanche danger" stop me from reaching my goal. I went around the sign and continued up the hill.

I'm not going to lie, it was a bit scary. Snow covered part of the steps going up and I felt like if I even sneezed I would

It's Time to Stop Preparing

lose my balance and fall off the side. I finally made it to the top and after catching my breath I looked out and soaked in the beauty of everything.

Not just the scenery that was around me, but literally everything. Because the detouring sign was just down the way from me, I had a few moments up there alone, and I am not too proud to tell you I cried. (No not because my calves were on fire!) While I was sitting up there looking out over everything and looking down at some of the people I could see it just all of the sudden hit me. We really are all just one spirit connected to each other and equally connected to God.

You see for me, being outside like that is my church. It is looking at the beauty of everything the creator has done that makes me feel Her presence. This isn't to say that I don't like popping into a church now and then, it just means that being out there around His creations is where I am most spiritual.

While I was hiking up there I passed a lot of people and every single one of them were different. There were young kids (some of whom blew passed me like I was standing still which is always good for the ego), old people, young people, people from all different lands, skinny people, not so skinny people, all skin colors and best of all, all types of religions. The best part was it didn't matter.

The scenery didn't change because someone worshipped one way or another, or even if someone didn't worship at all. It didn't matter how each person identified or defined God. It just was there for all of us to enjoy and soak in. It was just there for us to love.

Human beings are funny. We are willing to anything to prove that we are right. So saying that someone else's choice in how they define spirituality is good is sometimes misinterpreted to mean theirs is wrong and we can't have that.

But you see, when it comes to spirituality, there is no right or wrong. Our bodies and our spirits have two different agenda's and that messes up all the time. While the body is constantly searching for safety, love and pleasure, our spirits are seeking ways to express our individual greatness.

Our spirit doesn't seek safety, love and pleasure because it is those things. If we would all realize that we are one, then we would realize we aren't competing for anything because there is plenty out there for everyone.

When I was at the top of the mountain that day looking out over everything, I once again was reminded that we really are all one. Not in a poetic sense, but in a literal sense. We are one with each other, one with nature and more importantly one with the creator.

I realize that some may disagree with me on that point and that's OK. At the end of the day it doesn't matter if we agree or not. We don't need to agree to have the world we all desire. All we have to do is be able to look at each other and simply say, "Mine is not the right way, it is simply another way".

Sharon Fredrickson is the cofounder of Livin' Free which is a company that is dedicated to leading people towards success in all aspects of their lives. For more information on Sharon and Livin' Free visit them at www.livinfree.biz.

EARTH TALK

FROM THE EDITORS OF E/THE ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE

Dear EarthTalk: Are there any efforts underway to green the air travel industry? It seems to me that it must be one dirty business from a pollution standpoint.

Environmental battles over the siting and expansion of airports are as old as the air travel industry itself, but only in recent years have the airlines themselves been under pressure to go green.

And there's no time like the present for the industry to take some action: Air pollution from commercial jets is a growing concern among scientists, as is air travel's role in climate change because of the more acute warming effect of emissions when they are disbursed so much closer to the upper atmosphere.

According to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, an independent group of scientists that advises the British government, emissions from aircraft will likely be one of the major contributors to global warming by the year 2050. According to USA Today, on a flight from New York to Denver, a commercial jet generates between "840 to 1,660 pounds of carbon dioxide per passenger. That's about what an SUV generates in a month."

Despite still gloomy times for the industry post-9/11, a few are actually responding to the call. Virgin is blazing new trails as part of a \$3 billion investment in energy efficiency. The company is experimenting with biodiesel and ethanol—fuels derived from crops—and has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in ethanol-related businesses. But don't expect to ride on a biofuel-powered jet anytime soon.

Airplane makers are getting in on the act, too. Boeing successfully flew the world's first hydrogen-powered, fuel cell airplane

in April 2008. A company spokesperson called the plane—a small one-seater—"full of promises for a greener future." Boeing is working to develop a commercial version, but uncertainties about hydrogen production and distribution put this advancement well into the future, too.

So what can consumers do to fly greener today? Sharon Beaulaurier of GreenLight magazine suggests choosing airlines with newer, more fuel-efficient fleets such as JetBlue, Singapore Airlines or Virgin.

She adds that direct flights are better than those with stopovers, as frequent take-offs and landings use more fuel than when the planes are cruising. She also recommends avoiding airlines and airports with bad track records for delays, which leave planes idling and spewing greenhouse gases for hours unnecessarily.

The National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) runs AvoidDelays.com, which helps fliers choose airlines and airports based on on-time departures. Airlines with poor records include American, Atlantic Southeast, ExpressJet, Mesa and United, according to NATCA, which also calls Chicago's O'Hare, New York's LaGuardia, Newark, Philadelphia and San Francisco the worst airports for catching on-time flights.

Meanwhile, the European Union wants to require airlines touching down in Europe to participate in continent-wide carbon reduction programs already in place. Backers hope it will cut Europe's exponential growth in airline emissions in half by 2020. Some carriers oppose the plan and are fighting it in court.

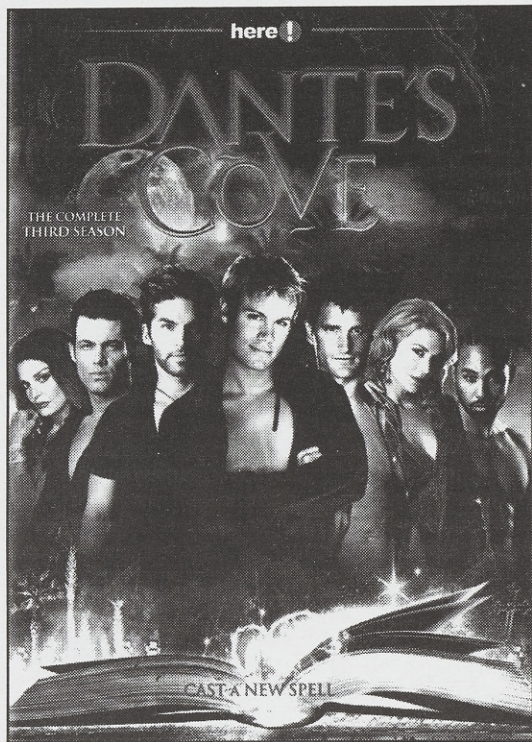
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ENTERTAINMENT

Dante's Cove: The Complete Third Season



TV's Guiltiest Pleasure Is Back And More Shocking Than Ever On Dvd June 3. Hunky Cast Is Joined By "Amazing Race" Winner Reichen Lehmkuhl And "Noah's Arc" Star Jensen Atwood

Dante's Cove, here! TV's first and most buzzed-about series, remains a staple in the GLBT community as one of television's guiltiest pleasure. The show is a genre-bending

mix of sex, horror, the supernatural, homosexuality and camp, making it one of the most unapologetic shows around. In Dante's Cove: The Complete Third Season, the addictive drama continues with even more seductive neighbors, more supernatural mayhem and more shocking plot twists than ever before!

All 5 episodes, along with brand new extras, will be available on a special 2-Disc DVD set from Genius Products on

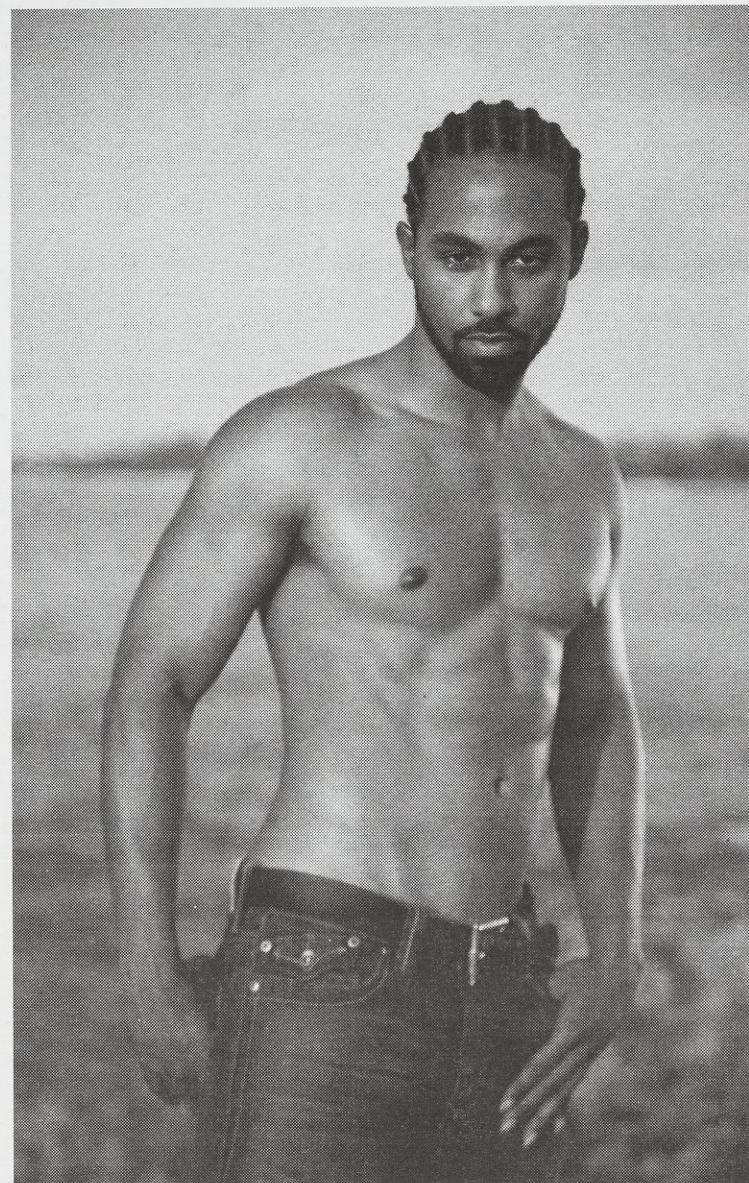
June 3, 2008, just in time for Gay Pride Month.

Dante's Cove: The Complete Third Season revisits the peaceful beach

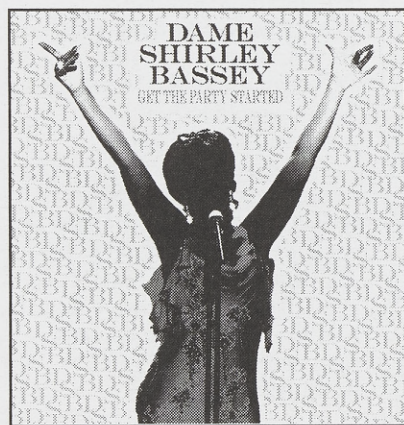
town and the young, sexy inhabitants of Hotel Dante including Toby (Charlie David), his boyfriend Kevin (Gregory Michael), the menacing Ambrosius (William Gregory Lee), sorceress Grace (Tracy Scoggins - "Dynasty"), Diana (Thea Gill - "Queer as Folk") and Brit (Michelle Wolff). New cast members adding spice this season include "Amazing Race" winner Reichen Lehmkuhl, "Noah's Arc" star Jensen Atwood, Calvin Klein model Jenny Shimizu, and In Her Line of Fire star Jill Bennett. The 2-Disc Set contains brand new special features including commentaries, a backlot featurette, bloopers, deleted scenes and more.

Visit Dante's Cove. See the trailer for Season 3 at www.heretv.com

Price:	\$29.95
Order Due Date:	April 22, 2008
Street Date:	June 3, 2008
MPAA Rating:	Not Rated
Languages:	English
Subtitles:	None
Running time:	246 minutes
Catalog Numbers:	LIB00138
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Get the Party Started By Dame Shirley Bassey

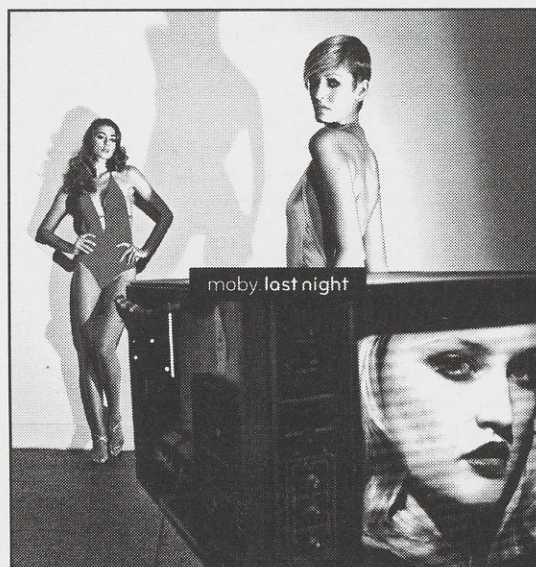


Get The Party Started With World Famous Siren Dame Shirley Bassey Diva's First New Album In A Decade! Get the Party Started by the "formidable force of nature" (Q Magazine) Shirley Bassey, the distinctive vocalist famous for her three James Bond themes "Goldfinger," "Diamonds are Forever" and "Moonraker," is Bassey's first album in ten years. The release celebrates her 70th birthday and combines 13 brilliant songs in a combination of new recordings and remixed and re-worked tracks by some of today's hottest producers. Get the Party Started features new recordings, new vocals and remixes of classic tracks including "Big Spender,"

"You Only Live Twice," "I Will Survive," the infectious new single "The Living Tree" and the searing title track--a newly recorded version of Pink's "Get The Party Started." In a career spanning over 50 years, Dame Shirley Bassey has sold millions of records worldwide and spent more weeks in the charts than any other British female recording artist.

Label: Decca

Get the Party Started By Dame Shirley Bassey



Last Night - the fifteen track album was recorded in Moby's home studio in Manhattan NY and mixed by Dan Grech - Maguerat who has also worked with Radiohead and the Scissor Sisters. The new album features guest vocalists and includes the original 70's MC Grandmaster Caz one of the writers of Rappers Delight, Sylvia from Kudu, the UK's MC Aynzli and S.O. Simple and Smokey from the Nigerian 419 Squad. EMI. 2008. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Label: Mute

Kevin Spacey Makes "21" Worth The Gamble

By Tom Swanner
& Brian Judd

"21"

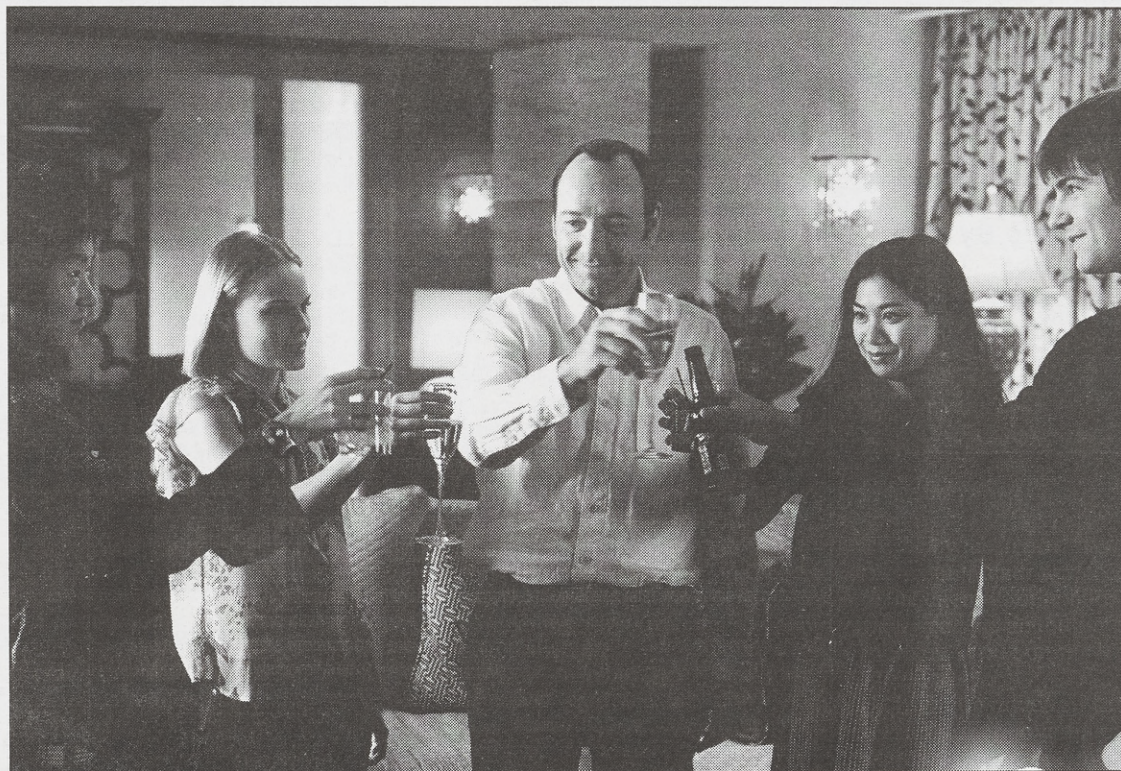
Judd: The other night Tom and I saw the latest casino caper, 21, starring Jim Sturgess (Beyond the Universe), Kate Bosworth (Beyond the Sea), Kevin Spacey and Laurence Fishburne. The movie revolves around five MIT students and a professor that use their massive brains and card counting skills to take Vegas for hundreds of thousands of dollars, while Fishburne is a security guard who's on the brink of losing his job to new technology.

Swanner: I'm not a big fan of gambling movies but this one was entertaining enough. I was trying to figure out why Jim Sturgess looked so familiar. He's adorable in a way too skinny way. I thought the movie was too long. They spent way too much time in Vegas. Seriously, if I had to see another aerial shot of the Las Vegas casinos I think I might have gone mad.

Judd: I felt the same way about the time spent in Vegas, but at the same time I thought about the fact that these kids were from Boston. I think for people from the East Coast Las Vegas has a Sin City/Gambler's Paradise vibe that is lost on people from the West Coast because we are so close and the city is so accessible. Of course, I'm sure the fact that neither one of us are gamblers helped with our blasé feeling toward Las Vegas. 21 is definitely a movie for people who like to gamble and dream of a way to beat the house.

Swanner: I think audiences are going to like this movie. The characters are very likeable...even the perceived bad guys. The acting is good and the movie has a slick look to it. I especially liked the ending. The ending really made the movie for me. If it had ended differently then I might not have liked it as much. It did feel like you're getting in insider guide to Vegas. I was there recently so I was reliving all the places I went.

Judd: I did not like the ending and I thought that the movie glossed over the "insiders guide" to Vegas. What made the movie for me was the characters and the over all pace. I really liked Kevin Spacey as the team coach. His character was a fey asshole, but not in totally gay way, but almost in a proper British kind of way - if that makes sense. Very pursed and stiff with a dry wit. He's the boss, he'll ruin you if he has to, but ultimately he wants you to have a good time. And while it is



an almost 2 hour movie and it feels like 2 hour movie, it didn't feel longer than a 2 hour movie. And we've seen 80 minute movies that felt like 80 years, so that's a good thing.

Swanner: Please after the 40th trip back to Vegas I was rolling my eyes. When I finally asked you what time it was I was ready to go. The pace was good but I still think the film was too long. I did think that Spacey was the pivotal character. I believe him so he made cheating seem okay.

Swanner: • • ½
Judd: • • •

"Baby Mama"

Swanner: For all those women who decided to have the career first and then the family only to find out they were less the fertile comes the new movie Baby Mama. Tina Fey and Amy Poehler star in this comedy about a successful business woman who hires a surrogate mother to have her child. I know it sounds like a chick flick but it's really more well rounded than that.

Judd: I'd have to say it was pretty chick flicky. It was funny and well written, but it is still about a woman that wants to have baby. The thing that I think makes Baby Mama work is that the jokes weren't overly gyno-centric. The movie didn't portray men as idiotic sperm donors and the women as persevering single mothers.

Swanner: I also thought it was odd the way the movie wasn't what the trailer promised...which was a good thing. The surrogate was portrayed like a oddball in the trailer yet in the film Amy Poehler gets a chance to have a well rounded character. I also liked that besides everyone from Saturday Night Live co-starring they had some really good supporting parts played by Steve Martin and Sigourney Weaver.

Judd: I got what I expected from the trailers, but I'll agree that the two main characters are very well developed, particularly Poehler whose character matures throughout the film, but not to an unbelievable degree. It was nice to see Steve Martin in the screen again. Sigourney Weaver's character wasn't all that special, but the jokes they made about her age were hilarious - she's pregnant through the whole film to the disbelief of the other cast.

Swanner: That's why I like Weaver's character so much. It was all about the running gag. The only real problem I had was with the Greg Kinnear character that is introduced as Tina Fey's love interest. It seemed like some of his scenes were missing...his character felt thrown in the story to benefit the ending and that was about it. It's not a major stumbling point...just something I noticed.

Judd: You're right, Kinnear was a means to the end. As I said earlier, I thought this movie was a chick flick, and his character added to the chick flick feel. It's not enough that Tina Fey wanted to

have a baby, but she might as well get have a good man fall into her lap as well!

Swanner: Overall, I think the girls are back in town and this will be a decent hit. It should also make Tina Fey a movie star where Amy Poehler still feels like a character actress and that makes me sad. Still, I thought this was a really good movie with a lot of really good laughs.

Swanner: • • • ½
Judd: • • •

"88 Minutes" & "The Forbidden Kingdom"

Swanner: The other night Brian and I had to split up because we had two screenings at the same time so Brian went to see the new Al Pacino film 88 Minutes and I saw The Forbidden Kingdom with Jet Li and Jackie Chan.

Judd: First of all, I went to see 88 Minutes, because I was bamboozled into believing it was 88 minutes long. It's actually 108 minutes of a mildly entertaining but horribly scripted whodunit starring Al Pacino, who's in the movie only for a paycheck.

Swanner: Forbidden Kingdom is the first pairing of martial arts stars Jackie Chan and Jet Li. It tells the story of a teenage boy who is pulled back in time to deliver a staff that was stolen from

the Monkey King by some evil guy who is a real butt and is trying to be the king of the world. It was good. I heard that 88 minutes is the worst movie Al Pacino ever made. Too bad you didn't come with me and see a good movie.

Judd: I don't like Jackie Chan or Jet Li movies so I thought I'd take my chances. I will say that I wasn't bored during 88 Minutes. I would recommend it over a root canal - which is more than I can say about some movies (Marie Antoinette) - but overall 88 Minutes was awful. There are gaping plot holes; there is no character development; the acting is barely sufficient; and the twists and turns are so excessive by the end of the movie I didn't care who the killer was.

Swanner: My movie was a lot of high action and amazing scenery. The movie was filmed in China and the views were breathtaking. As with most martial arts films, the fight scenes are extraordinary and the stunts are wild. As I mentioned, we follow a young guy who is trying to return the staff. On the road to the king he meets up with a young girl, a monk and a immortal that turns out not to be immortal. It felt a little Wizard of Oz meets Crouching Tiger... and yes, there are flying Chinese people. The story was good but I do think the movie was geared down for a younger audience to appreciate. You know...like me!

Judd: There's something to be said about a plot that's able to withstand nearly 500 years, even if it is dumbed down. The plot of 88 Minutes is about a forensic psychiatrist (Pacino) whose expert testimony sentences a serial killer to the chair. On the eve of the killer's execution, similar murders start taking place. Pacino gets a caller that tells him "you have 88 Minutes to live" so Pacino has to save his ass and find the murderer. Of course there's a clue to why he has 88 minutes to live and by the time it's revealed you just don't give a shit - but it is the only pivotal plot point they didn't let fall through the cracks.

Swanner: Wow...that sounds terrible. For me, it was nice seeing a family action picture that would be okay for most kids. Some people get killed but it's either for revenging a wrong or they are just bad guys.

Judd: 88 Minutes is destined to fill the Sunday Matinee slots on UHF channels.

Forbidden Kingdom • • • ½
88 Minutes •

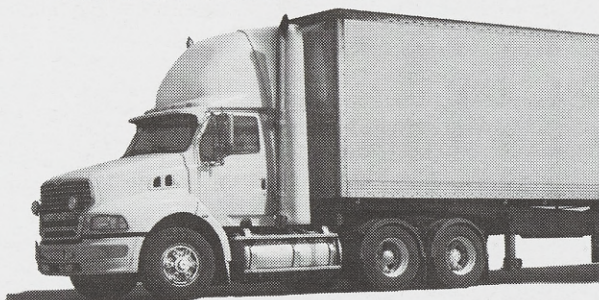
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LESBIAN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP—Meets the 3rd Monday of each month, 6:30pm Bring partners or support people with you. ROXANNE1040@aol.com

SACRAMENTO STONEWALL DEMOCRATS—Meets every 2nd Monday, 6pm, edben-nett1@gmail.com

MAD MONDAYS AT SAC BADLANDS—2 for 1 cocktails All Day and All Night, 20th & K, sacbadlands.com

OPEN MIC POETRY—Slam, Spokenword, The Coffee Garden, 2914 Franklin Blvd Sacto, Hosted by J2, 7pm 'til it's Silent

WEDNESDAY

WOMEN ON WEDNESDAYS, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 916.442.018

RESPECT SACRAMENTO, 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6:30pm, LLACE, 1414 21st St, RespectSacramento.org or 916.733.2135

SPC TRANS PEERS GROUP, 2nd & 4th Weds. of the month, 7:30pm at Stanislaus PRIDE Center, 823 15th Street in Modesto. tgsupport@stanpride.org, stanpride.org

SAC NOW, Sac Chapter National Organization for Women, meets the 3rd Thurs. of the month, 7pm, Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St, 27th & J. SacramentoNOW@gmail.com

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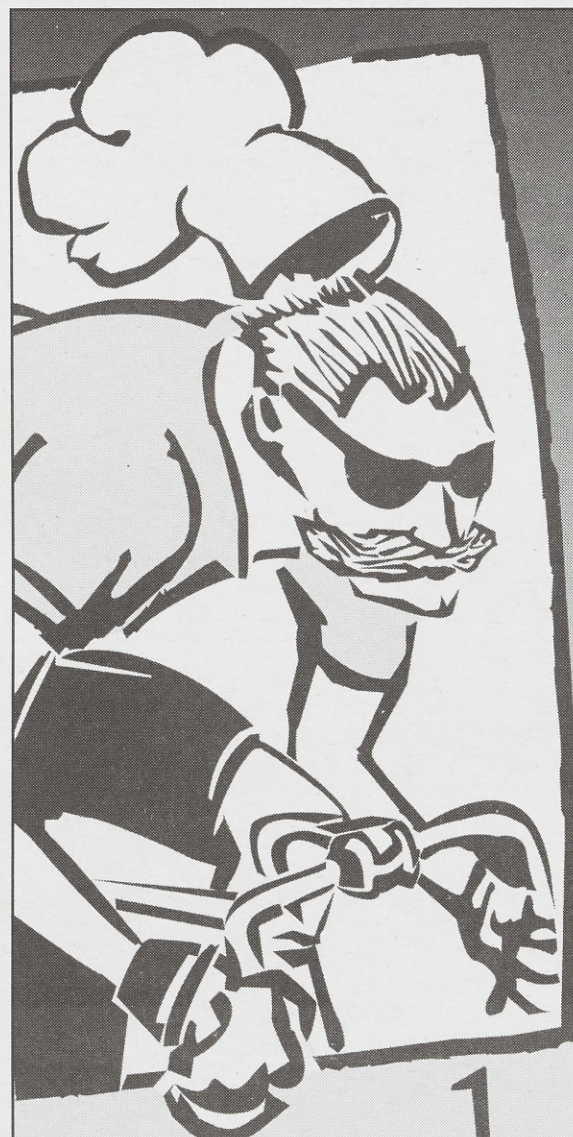
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